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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178486
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
S/S-O:MMCCALLIE
----------043003 151115Z /14
O 150008Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 4594
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 178486

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAR ES SALAAM 2957 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ADDIS ABABA, BAGHDAD, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, FREETOWN, HAVANA,
JIDDA, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, LAGOS, LIBREVILLE, MOSCOW, AND
SANA DATED JULY 12, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 2957

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PIN, ET, SU, TZ
SUBJECT: NYERERE TO PROMOTE ETHIO-SUDANESE ACCORD ON
ERITREA AT OAU SUMMIT

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 2821, B) STATE 172468

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE'S
HOPES (REF A) FOR PROGRESS
TOWARD SOLUTION ETHIOPIA-SUDAN PROBLEM AT KHARTOUM HAVE BEEN
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DASHED BY HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PARTIES. HOWEVER,
HE IS GRATEFUL FOR US RESPONSE TO HIS IDEAS (REF B) AND WILL
BEIN TOUCHIF HE IS ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANYTHING PROMISING
ON THE SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTER NYERERE MEETING WITH GRAHAM
AND LOW JULY 11, I DREW ON REF B TO GIVE PRESIDENT OUR VIEWS

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ON ETHIOPIA-SUDA SITUATION. NYERERE WAS PLEASED THAT USG ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET POSITION WAS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS HIS.

3. HOWEVER, NYERERE SAID THAT HIS HOPES FOR PROGRESS (REF A) HAD BEEN PRETTY WELL DASHED. HE HAD LEARNED WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS THAT NIMEIRI, DESPITE HIS EARLIER COMPARISON TO NYERERE OF ERITREA WITH SOUTHERN SUDAN, WAS STILL INSISTING ON INDEPENDENCE AS A SELF-DETERMINATION OPTION FOR ERITREA. HE WAS AFRAID BOTH ERITREAN NATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS, DESPITE BEIRUT STATEMENTS, ALSO FELT THE SAME WAY.

4. ADDITIONALLY, NYERERE HAD FOUND THAT MENGC TU WAS NOT GOING TO KHARTOUM. MENGISTU WAS, NYERERE UNDERSTOOD, STILL WILLING TO GO TO SIERRA LEONE, AND SOMETHING MIGHT EVENTUALLY COME OF THAT. HOWEVER, AT MOMENT AT LEAST NIMEIRI WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO TO SIERRA LEONE.

5. THESE FACTS, TOGETHER WITH DIFFERENT MEANINGS ATTACHED BY DIFFERENT PARTIES TO SUCH PHRASES AS "SELF-DETERMINATION", "AUTONOMY", AND "SEPARATE IDENTITY" MADE SITUATION VERY DISCOURAGING AND NYERERE NOW DOUBTED HE WOULD BE ABLE ACCOMPLISH MUCH AT KHARTOUM. (NYERERE ALSO NOTED THAT HE WISHED MENGISTU WOULD ACCEPT INDEPENDENCE, AT LEAST AS AN OPTION TO BE VOTED DOWN, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE ETHIOPIAN LEADER WOULD DO SO UNTIL HE FELT MUCH MORE CONFIDENT OF HIS POSITION THAN HE NOW DOES.)

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6. NYERERE WAS, HOWEVER, VERY GRATEFUL FOR USG RESPONSE, INCLUDING OUR WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO OUR ARAB FRIENDS ABOUT HIS IDEAS IF THE APPROPRIATE TIME CAME. HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED.

7. COMMENT: PROSPECTS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT AT KHARTOUM BY NYERERE NOW SEEM SMALL. HOWEVER, IN TERMS FUTURE COOPERATION ON THIS AND OTHER AFRICAN PROBLEMS, FRANK AND TRUSTING USG DIALOGUE WITH HIM REPREMENTS A GENUINE PLUS. MANY THANKS FOR DEPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY ADDIS'S SUPPORT.
SPAIN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DISPUTES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE178486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-0981
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780755/aaaabuko.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6048072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 DAR ES SALAAM 2821, 78 STATE 172468
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1993678
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NYERERE TO PROMOTE ETHIO-SUDANESE ACCORD ON ERITREA AT OAU SUMMIT
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, ET, SU, TZ, (NYERERE, JULIUS K)
To: GENEVA USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6048072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014